

Texas A&M University Kingsville, originally established as South Texas Teachers College in 1921, is the oldest continuously operating public institution of higher learning in south Texas, and the first in the Nation to develop a doctoral program for bilingual education.

It truly is a privilege and honor to represent Kleberg County in the United States House of Representatives, and I ask my colleagues in Congress to join me in celebrating this momentous occasion.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF UNITED COLLEGE ACTION NETWORK

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 12, 2013

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the United College Action Network, (U-CAN), and to congratulate this fine organization on 25 years of service. As U-CAN's founders, staff and supporters gather to celebrate 25 years of unparalleled service to the Sacramento community, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring this organization.

Founded on September 12, 1988, by Alan and Donna Rowe, U-CAN has helped countless high school students attend college. U-CAN specializes in providing college opportunities at historically black colleges and universities for students who may not normally pursue a college degree.

U-CAN's successful model includes outreach, educational support, and mentoring services to students and their parents. U-CAN has built strong partnerships with local school districts, admissions officers, financial aid departments, coaches and department deans. Due in large part to their track record, they enjoy supportive relationships with a wide variety of faith, businesses and community organizations. U-CAN seeks to recruit and support socially and economically disadvantaged students regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, or national origin to attend historically black colleges and universities. Since its inception, U-CAN has assisted over 54,000 students in achieving their dream of a college education, generated \$55 million in scholarship awards for students, and made it possible for 15,000 students to be accepted to historically black colleges and universities.

Mr. Speaker, on their 25th anniversary, I am pleased to the United College Action Network for their service to students from the Greater Sacramento Area. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this organization and wishing them continued success as they serve local students as they pursue a college degree.

COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OLD ELYTON CHAPTER OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 12, 2013

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of its 100th anniversary, I want to extend com-

mendations to the Old Elyton Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The members of the Old Elyton Chapter are guardians of our nation's cherished history of freedom and, through their educational initiatives with young people especially, are ensuring that there will be continuing respect and reverence for the democratic principles that are the foundation of America. Through their service, they fulfill the motto of the National Society of the DAR: God, Home, and Country.

The Old Elyton Chapter has deep roots in Alabama. In fact, its very name is historical and is associated with the formation of the City of Birmingham. The chapter was organized by Mrs. J. Morgan (Kate Duncan) Smith and her daughter, Mrs. Samuel L. Earle, on January 4, 1913, just 23 years after the formal organization of the National Society of the DAR.

The chapter's 100th anniversary celebration falls on the 226th anniversary of the signing of the U.S. Constitution by the Continental Congress. The selection of the date of September 17, which is highly significant to the origins of our great nation, was fitting for an organization whose own members trace their family heritage to the Patriots of the American Revolution.

The Old Elyton Chapter has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the principles of the National Society of the DAR, a volunteer women's service organization dedicated to promoting patriotism and preserving American history through the education of young people. Its purpose is drawn directly from its charter, which was incorporated by an Act of Congress in 1896: "To perpetuate the memory and spirit of women and men who achieved American independence; to promote, as an object of primary importance, institutions for the general diffusion of knowledge; to cherish, maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom; to foster true patriotism and love of country." The volunteer initiatives of DAR members include support for student financial aid and scholarships and donations to schools for the underprivileged.

A major service project of the Old Elyton Chapter is its continuing support of the Kate Duncan Smith DAR School in Grant, Alabama. Established in 1924, it is the only K-12 school in the United States owned and operated by chapters of the DAR. Known as the "Gem of Gunter Mountain," the school annually provides more than 1,000 children in the remote Appalachian area of Northeast Alabama with schooling, extra-curricular activities, clothing, health care, daily nutrition through a free breakfast and lunch program, training in life skills, and a love of American ideals. It exemplifies the best principles of the DAR in action.

The members of the Old Elyton Chapter of the DAR are proud supporters of our troops and veterans. They participate in many events honoring our veterans in the Birmingham area and remind us that we are able to enjoy the freedoms we have today only because of the sacrifices made by our men and women in uniform in the past and now in the present.

Patriotism in the Birmingham community and the State of Alabama runs deep and the Old Elyton Chapter of the DAR has been an essential part of maintaining that tradition through many generations. Having completed one hundred years of vital service, it now prepares to embark on its second century of promoting American ideals and values. On behalf

of the people of the Sixth District, let me congratulate the Old Elyton Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and send best wishes and blessings to all of its members.

HONORING THE CAREER OF JIM SAMPSON UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 12, 2013

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to honor the remarkable career of Mr. James Sampson as he retires from his position of President and Chief Executive Officer of Gateway-Longview, Inc. One of Western New York's largest child welfare agencies, Gateway-Longview has expanded exponentially during Jim's nine years as President and CEO.

During Jim's tenure, Gateway-Longview has expanded to include eighteen different programs, serving 3,400 children and families per year. His work includes the establishment of Gateway-Longview's Family Resource Center, Behavioral Mental Health Clinic, and Supervised Independent Living Program. Located on East Ferry Street, the Family Resource Center promotes familial strength and provides bonding activities such as tutoring, swim classes and music lessons. Jim assisted in creating Gateway-Longview's Behavioral Mental Health Clinic, which tends to the emotional needs of Gateway children and families. The program currently has two satellite offices in Buffalo Public Schools, with five more set to open in the fall, to ensure our city's children receive the care they desperately need. For teens that have not been adopted but have aged out of foster care, Gateway created a Supervised Independent Living Program to help teens develop the skills necessary to live independently and become self-sufficient.

Jim is a truly dedicated public servant. Beyond his work with Gateway-Longview, Jim was elected to serve on the City of Buffalo School Board this past May, and is a founding member and trustee of the West Buffalo Charter School. Under appointment from Governor Cuomo, he serves as Chair of the Erie County Fiscal Stability Authority, and has previously been a member of the Board of Directors for the Buffalo Niagara Partnership. Jim is also involved with the Rotary Club of Buffalo.

Jim's undergraduate years were spent at the University at Buffalo, where he earned his Bachelor's degree in Social Work. For his graduate studies, Jim attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison for his Master's in Social Work. Current, he holds the position of adjunct professor for the University at Buffalo's School of Social Work, teaching leadership, management, and administration.

Jim's love for children and families stems from his own. He is happily married to his wife, Florence, with whom he has two children. His son Gregory is a lawyer and Assistant Parliamentarian for the United States Senate, living in College Park, Maryland with his wife, Jamie and their two children, Isaac and Kira. His daughter, Robin, is the lead scientist for the Department of Energy Solar Energy Loan Guarantee Program, living in Washington, D.C. with her husband Dr. Frank Wong.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me a few moments to recognize the inspiring career of Mr. Jim Sampson. His work for Western New York's children and families is truly admirable, and I wish him the best in his retirement.

HONORING FARISH STREET
BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 12, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Farish Street Baptist Church. Organized in 1893, Farish Street Baptist Church has been blessed by the vitality, imagination, and inspiration of its leadership.

The Reverend Elbert B. Topp served as pastor of Mt. Helm Baptist Church from 1888–1893, when, according to Patrick Thompson in his book *History of Negro Baptists in Mississippi*, “he (Topp) with 210 members came out and organized what is now known as the Farish Street Baptist Church.” The newly formed church held worship services in the Congregational Church, which was then located at the corner of Capitol and Lamar Streets. White Jacksonians would line the bridge to hear the choir sing, giving generously to the collections. Soon the infant congregation had enough money to purchase the lot at the corner of Farish and Church Streets. It was here that the newly organized congregation built the first place of worship—a frame structure. Lightning destroyed this building and it was replaced by a two-story frame structure. The second story was reserved for worship, with all other activities, including funerals, taking place on the first level. A fire, which began on Oakley Street and spread, destroyed the second building. Determined to minimize this threat in the future, in 1909, Reverend Topp led the membership in constructing a brick building. He pastored Farish Street Baptist Church until 1916.

Reverend Topp died on October 3, 1925. The October 9 edition of the *Advance Dispatch* carried a front page announcement of his death. Of Topp, Patrick Thompson wrote, “no member of the convention and state is more conspicuous and popular. Reverend Topp is good natured and full of life. True to his fellow preachers and has but few equals as a gospel minister.”

Reverend E. L. Twine, an Alcorn College graduate and teacher of mathematics, was called to serve the Church in 1916, and for three years, he labored faithfully. During that brief tenure, he encouraged the congregation to purchase new pews and to make a substantial payment on the church mortgage, which had been left from previous years. His pastorate was to be the shortest during the Church's first 100 years of existence. Because of his stately nature, Reverend Twine would be known by his contemporaries as the “Black Prince of Mississippi.”

In November 1919, the Church extended the call to Reverend Chester Arthur Greer. Reverend Greer had pastored and taught school in Arkansas and Mississippi, and at the time he was called to Farish Street Baptist Church, he was serving as pastor of Second Baptist Church in Oxford, Mississippi. He

served as pastor of Farish Street Baptist Church until November 1927. During those eight years, the mortgage was paid in full; the bell tower was completed; an annex was built onto the 1909 structure; a parsonage was bought; an old note of \$500.00 on Dr. Topp's salary, held by Brother C. C. Sims against the Church was redeemed; 40,000 bricks were bought and placed on the church grounds to be used in the construction of a new church facility; plans and specifications with an architect's rendering had been presented in the church conference on March 4, 1926, and had been approved without one dissenting vote; several hundred dollars were raised and negotiations for a loan of \$20,000 were initiated. However, in November 1927, just a little more than a year after Dr. Greer had presented those plans to the church, he resigned and moved to Fort Worth, Texas, to accept the pastorate of Mt. Gilead Baptist Church.

Reverend W. L. Varnado assumed the pastorate of Farish Street Baptist Church in April 1928. Perhaps Reverend Varnado will be remembered best as the only person to pastor Jackson's three historic black congregations—Mt. Helm, College Hill and Farish Street Baptist Churches. During his term of service, the membership increased and two rooms were added to the parsonage. Reverend Varnado was a great churchman. It was during his pastorate that a young Jackson State College student from the Class of 1927 was ordained to the work of the gospel ministry the future leader of six million black Baptists? Dr. Varnado resigned in October 1934 to accept a pastorate in Jackson, Tennessee.

Without fanfare, the man who had served diligently as the third pastor returned in January 1935, to begin his second pastorate. Reverend Chester A. Greer began a building program, which resulted in the replacement of the forty year old structure with a modern building, which still serves the congregation today. The ground-breaking ceremony was a joyous occasion. Mrs. Lillie Bentley and Mr. Turner M. Patterson, two of the original 210 members to leave Mt. Helm Baptist Church in 1893, participated in breaking ground for the new facility. Dr. Jacob L. Reddix, President of Jackson State College, Chairman of the Trustee Board of Farish Street Baptist Church, gave invaluable advice during the construction phase. At the laying of the corner stone, Jackson State College Band performed to the delight of the congregation. Dedication services for the newly constructed church building were held during the week of March 5–12, 1950. A renewed people joined hands with their sisters and brothers to praise Him Who is the great Builder and without Whom they that build, build in vain.

After serving for twenty-three years during his second pastorate, Reverend Greer was successful in retiring the debt and burning the mortgage before his victorious and faithful members. With his health on the decline, Reverend Greer decided to retire from the pulpit in March 1958. Reverend Greer was named “Pastor Emeritus” of the Church. Three decades of service to a great people had come to an end. The assistant pastor, Reverend G. W. Williams, supplied the pulpit until a successor was elected. Reverend Greer died on August 13, 1962.

During the summer of 1958, a young seminary teacher, Reverend S. Leon Whitney, came to Jackson to teach at the Mississippi Baptist Seminary. He was invited to preach to the congregation at Farish Street Baptist Church. Impressed with his preaching, on September 4, 1958, the congregation instructed the Pulpit Committee, chaired by Brother M. M. Hubert, to interview Reverend Whitney. On September 22, 1958, the Pulpit Committee made its recommendation to the Church. A meeting to vote on extending a call was set for the third Sunday in October. However, Brother D. T. Mason offered a motion that the rules be suspended and that Reverend Whitney be elected pastor that night. The motion carried and the church extended the call to pastor to Reverend Whitney. Thus began a term of service that lasted ten years.

Unlike his predecessors, Reverend Whitney did not inherit the financial debts of former years. He found a congregation ready for new leadership. Reverend Whitney served wisely and made many improvements in the order of service. Moreover, he rejuvenated the spirit of the Church and increased the membership. He encouraged the establishment of a centralized treasury. The baptism was elevated, and the building was renovated and redecorated. This youthful, energetic preacher accepted the challenge and embarked upon an aggressive ministry of evangelism, stewardship and social concerns. It was these social concerns—the freedom rides, the sit-ins, the protest marches and the mass meetings—that helped shape the ministry of this congregation during the turbulent sixties. Yet, despite ten years of fruitful, positive and constructive leadership in the church and community, Reverend Whitney resigned the pastorate of Farish Street Baptist Church in May 1968, to accept the pastorate of New Prospect Baptist Church in Detroit, Michigan.

In June 1968, Reverend Hickman M. Johnson, Chaplain of Tougaloo College, was invited to serve as interim minister. On July 22, 1968, the church voted to call Reverend Johnson and on August 4, 1968, he preached his first sermon as pastor. On December 1, 1968, Reverend Johnson was installed as the sixth pastor of Farish Street Baptist Church. Reverend Johnson brought to the Church a strong capacity for effective organization. He recommended that the Church become incorporated and on November 13, 1969, a Charter of Incorporation was issued to Farish Street Baptist Church by the State of Mississippi. He labored for a continuous and consistent building program and established the necessary framework for the most diversified religious education and service-oriented programs in the Church's history. A 1969 church brochure described the proposed building addition as being “of contemporary design, functional, attractive and air-conditioned, with ample parking . . . the first floor includes: administrative complex—church office, pastor's study; fellowship-assembly hall, game room, dining room, kitchen; the second floor includes: education-nursery, ten large multi-purpose classrooms.” While improvements were to be made on the 1969 model, nevertheless, the functions on which this model were based remain unchanged: a) education, b) fellowship, and c) administration.

At the 1976 Annual Meeting, the Building Committee recommended that the Church authorize its officers to secure a commitment for